

OCT 15 1961

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300050026-2



By Tom Kelley, Staff Photographer

DOCTORATE IS GOAL — Mary Jane Cronin knows whereof she speaks when she says working mothers learn to be more efficient when they have too much to do. Mrs. Cronin, mother of four, and wife of a State Department officer, holds a teaching fellowship in economics at George Washington University and is

studying for her doctorate. In her spare time she is a member of a committee planning the Trinity College Alumnae benefit fashion show on Nov. 4. How does she manage all this? She finds college teaching can be on a flexible time-table, and she budgets time as well as the family income.

ALL WORKING mothers would be glad to have Ph.D.s if Mary Jane Cronin had her way.

As the holder of a teaching fellowship in economics at George Washington University, Mrs. Cronin, who is studying for a doctorate, calls college teaching "good." You don't have to be at it eight hours a day and the schedule is "fairly elastic."

Mrs. Cronin, who is married to State Department Security Officer Robert Cronin and whose four children range from 9 months to 4½ years, also has a tip for mothers who think they just haven't time for any interests outside the home.

It's to your advantage to have too much to do, she says. Facing that sort of situation results in just one thing; it makes you learn to be efficient.

EXTRACURRICULAR now to her fellowship is her additional job as a member of the committee helping to plan the Trinity College Alumnae benefit fashion show Nov. 4, where dresses from Jelleff's will "blue-print" style. A few years ago she was caught in an even bigger hustle; she was the general chairman for the show.

As the economist of the family, Mrs. Cronin gets to figure out the family budget even if she does hate math. "It's not too bad," she admits. "We plan ahead what we're going to spend in a two-week period."

There have been times, however, when financial finesse flunked out. Those were the occasions when Mary Jane overdrew the checking account.

After majoring in economics at Trinity, where she was graduated in 1949, she worked as an economist at both the Wage Stabilization Board and a CIA.

The CRONINS live in Vienna, Va., because out there space is no premium, and "our family needs lots of space." The Cronins include Mary Jo, 4½; Daniel, 3½; Mark, 2½, and Jim, 9 months.

Mrs. Cronin's hobbies including raising roses "and a truck garden;" playing golf with her husband and taking a hand at bridge.

She also is a member of a Trinity alumnae discussion group which meets once a month.

Adds economist Mary Cronin, "I enjoy home-economists; 'I enjoy cooking.'"

GW Economist

Working By Degrees

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By Elizabeth Ford

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